

Hawthorne praised
her "Morganism"

29

Oct

[1889]



Dear Mr. Boker

Thanks for your word.

I will try to have my sketch
ready for you - the time ^{of it} is
about 1835 - place Mass.

I mean to be faithful to
the habits of the country people
of that time, and if possible
to get the atmosphere of all
that is local - but as you
know I am no tale bearer.
As stories, my work amounts
little. I lack invention -
and my readers must

take me on other grounds
entirely - In reference to the
you will of the 18th
you surprised me with your
idea of The Morgasons. I did
not intend them to be (my
characters) anything except
what they were, if you think
them autre dc. it is because of
your opinion, and because you
have never pondered over
certain phases of being -
I affirm now that my characters
did not interest you enough to
make you understand the true
relation between Cassandra
Morgison and Charles Morgison
and that with the capacity be-
tween them of a magnetic and

profound passion, the pressure
of generalities of Puritan teachers
and examples, prevented it
from being in result, nothing.

more ^{than} nebulous particles
hairy straw in the lumber to
to come together and make a
fine world. After that it is
killed, Callicanda creeps down
to his wife, and tells her, that
then she hungered for the kiss
he never gave her - To me
this seems more like genuine
human nature, than it seems
to you, cold and outre -
and regarding the Critic of
Crockett's killer if, as he says,
that my clay character is permeated
with vulgarity. I could not

always stand to observe to a reader

+ with the immediate hearing. & commanding interest

Create them so, unless innately
Bulan myself. Man saith the
Sibbole they created in God's mo-
rally and do again. Man's idea
of Lehouah & that of a powerful
person, ^{with} will to do soon and evil.
Now that I am one of the Inde-
pendent contributors I read it more
carefully - I see that somebody
set got a sorer head than I, but
how foolish to answer or re-butt
a criticism in print - make it of
more importance than it is worth.
Why do you with your taste and
knowledge of art in verse,
print such poor verse as you
sometimes do? I can see
the necessity to do so, you see I am
going to take up critical business
^{now} late on Maurice comes

out with a "work." I shall use his favorite word, & "filth." One of the clever women I know spoke to me of a notice of his on Tolstoi, in almost the same terms of indignation about his language.

I meant just now, in speaking of your opinion of the Mordecai to quote from a letter I have received from Mrs. Amelia Barr a novelist, and a stranger to me. She had just read it -

"I cannot tell you what a fresh mental pleasure you have given me - You have shown me genuine real England life. I am now

acquainted with New England
men & women and have
been in their homes talk &
spark from thy charm — or
a ha! Mr John B. charm!
and you must needs feel
creepy when you read it —
but ^{it} that equal literary
experience, and intelligence
can differ so — But I forgive
you, please speak plainly al-
ways, for that helps me from
a friend, and a friend whom
I like as I do you, I can
bear lots of castigation
from.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Soddard



John Elvir Bowen
The Independent.
251 Broadway
City

S.